

being in full of all property and cash due to me by my said guardian, and in consideration thereof, I do hereby release, acquit, exonerate, and discharge the said Richard B. Mitchell, his heirs, executors, and administrators, of and from all and every action, suit, claim, or demand, which could or might possibly be brought, exhibited, or prosecuted against him, them, or any of them, for or on account of the said sum of money and property, or the payment thereof, hereby declaring myself fully satisfied, contented, and paid the said amount as above specified." This release was duly recorded in the Register of Wills' office in Baltimore County. They also offered the parol testimony of Dr. Gunning S. Bedford, the brother of said Henrietta A. Bedford, in relation to the marriage of his sister with the said Richard B. Mitchell, and the undue influence exercised over by him, and sustaining the allegations of the answer in other particulars. This evidence the complainants excepted upon the ground that it consisted of declarations made by said Henrietta, and was mere hearsay. The cause coming on for final hearing, the Chancellor delivered the following opinion.]

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THE CHANCELLOR:

Assuming that the sole object of the bill filed in this cause is to affect the property which originally belonged to *Henrietta A. Bedford*, and which, by the conveyances mentioned in the proceedings, became vested in John P. Kennedy and John Glenn, on the 25th of August, 1825, and I am quite satisfied that the merits are with the defendants.

This conclusion has been formed after listening with great attention to the very able arguments of counsel on both sides, and a careful examination of the proceedings which make up the record before me.

These proceedings show that the form of a marriage took place between Richard Bennet Mitchell, and his stepdaughter *Henrietta A. Bedford*, on or about the 26th of February, 1825, she at that time owning and being possessed of a large estate real and personal. Within less than one month from